



ASMC Newsletter . . . Mount Vernon Chapter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By COL Bill Antley

For those who missed February's luncheon you missed a great one - on two counts. One, we received a first-hand update from Ms. Ginger Groeber, Deputy USD for Civilian Personnel Policy, on DoD's new Defense Personnel Policy, and two, we shared this luncheon with the Potomac Chapter. Both Chapters were well represented. I enjoyed meeting members from the Potomac Chapter and its Chapter President, Anita Hodges. But what was most enjoyable was seeing the large number of members in attendance. Over 130 enjoyed a great meal at the Fort Belvoir Officers' Club while listening to Ms. Groeber.

After the luncheon I approached Anita Hodges on the likelihood of our two chapters merging. Since AMC is now located on Fort Belvoir it seems sensible to pool the talent from both chapters. I was inspired to see how members from each Chapter mingled and interacted with one another. Bottom line: it makes sense to join together. This said, it would take a vote from the members from each Chapter to approve this merger. The National Headquarters has already informally approved of the two Chapters becoming one. Please consider the impact of joining forces with the Potomac Chapter and share your thoughts with me directly or through your activity POC.

Last month I asked members to consider serving as a director on the Chapter Executive Committee (CEC). We have vacancies now and some directors have indicated that they intend to step down. If you have any questions on what's involved serving as one of the directors, please contact me or any of the CEC Directors about their responsibilities. We're all busy, but I found that CEC meetings and Chapter luncheons are a welcome break from the day-to-day office grind, and are an important part of developing as a well-rounded professional. Again, please consider serving. It truly is a rewarding experience.

As a reminder, mark your calendars for the Mount Vernon Chapter PDD, 13 April 2004. Pat Ackerman has done a first class job coordinating for the facilities, setting up the agenda, and scheduling speakers. As an added bonus, Mr. Earnest Gregory, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management (Comptroller), has agreed to be the afternoon's guest speaker on career management. I look forward to seeing you there.

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Chapter News

5 February 2004 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES by Edna Plancon, Secretary

The CEC meeting of the Mount Vernon Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers was called to order at 11:10 by President COL Antley. The meeting was held in the Conference room at the Eagles Express on Fort Belvoir.

The following Officers were in attendance:

Col Antley, President
Edna Plancon, Secretary
Pat Ackerman, Education Director
Sherry Broussard, Treasurer
John Raines, Program Director
Connie Harding, Web Master

The following officers were excused:

Meg Dunlevy, Vice President
Terri Jackson, Awards & Scholarships
Deborah McLauren, Publicity & Photography Director
L Lisa Hughes, Chapter Competition Director
Robyn Walick, Services Director
Arnold Anderson, Web Master
Stacey Royston, Newsletter Director

Information on upcoming luncheons:

The February luncheon will be held at The Hunter Restaurant. We are asking the Potomac Chapter to join us.

Officer's Discussion:

President – Col Antley - The minutes of the January meeting were voted on and were accepted as published. Pat motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Sherry – Motion carried. Col Antley will solicit Kathy Holcombe to be the Chairman for the nominating committee.

Vice President – Meg sent an e-mail about Mr. Jim Davis, who is a member of our chapter, and also the Community Service Director for the Northern Virginia Chapter of AGA, is doing a project for February. His project is collecting old cell phones for women's shelters, and old eyeglasses for the Lions Club. He would like to know if our chapter would be interested in participating in this project. A comment was made that since our chapter is in need of a Community Service Director, we should ask Mr. Davis, if he would like to take over that office, and combine the two Offices.

Awards & Scholarship – Terri Jackson – Terri sent an e-mail that the scholarship committee will be getting together to go over the applications for awards. Suggestion for John to do a pitch on the awards.

Chapter Competition Director – L.Lisa Hughes – L.Lisa is working at the pentagon, and as far as we know, she still holds this office.

Education Director – Pat has a meeting with Sheila Hughes from the Springfield Hilton to make a menu selection. She is getting a flyer together to send out. Pat will not be at the PDD, however, Diane Andrews and Jim Ambler will help out. Pat has a motivational speaker for lunch, and Ernie Gregory is set to speak in the afternoon.

Membership Director – No Report.

Newsletter Director – Stacey – No Report.

Program Director – John - Ginger Groeber will be the speaker at the February luncheon.

Publicity and Photography Director – Deborah - No Report.

Secretary – Edna – set up a calendar for March and April. If there is anything you want on the calendar, please let her know. COL Antley apologized for not getting back to Edna to set up a date to take the school supplies to the Fort Belvoir Elementary School.

Services Director – Our March luncheon will be held at Damons, Manchester Lakes.

Social & Community Services Director – Looking for someone to fill this position.

Treasurer – Sherry - Sherry will check with the Washington Chapter about using their credit card machine. Our Post Office box will close if we don't pay our bill. Pat motioned to pay the bill, Edna – seconded, motion carried. Edna will take the check to the post office to pay for our P.O. Box.

Web Master – Arnold Anderson is TDY for 60 days. Connie is setting up the web account at HECSA. She will set up the CEC member's names.

New Business – We are looking for a new auditor, as the other auditor does not have the time. Also, we need to check on the TAX ID number.

Old Business. There was no old business to come before the board.

Announcements – For our next CEC Meeting will be held in the Boardroom in the Kingman building at HECSA. on March 4th, 2004, at 11:00.

Adjournment – Pat Ackerman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Connie. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:08.



Chapter News

MARCH LUNCHEON

DATE/TIME: Thursday, 11 March 2004 at 11:30

SPEAKER/TOPIC: "On-Line Learning" presented by Mike Manning from the University of Phoenix

LOCATION: Damon's Grill, Manchester Lakes Shopping Center (corner of Beulah Street and the Fairfax County Parkway)

MENU: Southern barbecue sandwich, grilled chicken breast salad, grilled turkey panini, flame grilled cheeseburger

COSTS: Members \$13.00/Non-members \$14.00

As always the luncheon speakers are a component of the chapter's "ASMC Professional Development Year" theme and will be credited as CPE for CDFM certification purposes.

APRIL LUNCHEON

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, 13 April 2004
Registration 0700-0800/seminar 0800-1630

TOPIC: Mini Professional Development Day/"Time Management and Career Development"

LOCATION: Springfield Hilton, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield, VA 22150

MENU: London broil w/Sherry Mushroom Sauce or Wine Marinated Chicken Breast w/Lemon Herb Sauce - served with Salad, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Vegetables, Rolls, and Dessert.

COST: Members \$140/Non-members \$160

Grapevine News



GENERAL INFORMATION

ASMC Washington Chapter
2004 Mini PDI will be held March 30, 2004
J.W. Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington DC

Plan now to attend the ASMC Washington Chapter 2004 Mini-PDI on March 30, 2004 at the JW Marriott Hotel 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, DC. The theme for this year's symposium is "**Sustaining Transformation**". The main focus is on the new initiatives in government and how critical it is to continue doing business, while changing the way it will be done in the future.

Our keynote speaker is Mr. Dov S. Zakheim Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer. Workshop topics include: Business Management and Modernization Program (panel discussion); Sustaining Transformation, a Corporate Perspective; Transformation of DHS and DOD Personnel Systems; Succession Management and Career Alignment, and CDFM Training.

Sign up now to attend the Washington Chapter ASMC 2004 Mini PDI by completing the registration form today or contacting Ms. Sandra Wright, 2004 Mini PDI Washington Chapter, ASMC, PO Box 70776, Washington, DC 20024, fax number 703-692-5378/voice 703-6925752. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit and become better informed about the emerging requirements and challenges facing financial managers. **9 CPEs** will be awarded for this training

A THANK YOU FROM THE SERVICES DIRECTOR

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to everyone of you for your patience and assistance in making the February luncheon a success. A joint luncheon is always exciting, as we get to meet new people and share ideas. When you have a dynamic speaker and a topic that brings everyone together, it makes it even more so. Thank you to John Raines for a great program, and to the organization POCs who had to work through changes in location, menus, and over long distances when it became impossible for me to be in the office during the final coordination. A special thank you to Diane Andrews, Linda Neal, Paula Reed, and Kathleen Grunden who ended up sharing the work of bringing over 125 people together, getting them organized and fed, and getting the Officer's Club paid. It is no small feat to be able to process that many people quickly and efficiently. They deserve a round of applause, please!

And thank you for all the good wishes on my injury. There is a positive side to almost anything, and a broken leg forces you to slow down a bit - not a bad thing in the DC area fast-paced work environment.

With my thanks again to all,
Robyn Walick
Services Director

Other Great News

NATIONAL NEWS

ASMC is pleased to announce that Ms. Audrey Davis has assumed duties as National President of the society. Upon the resignation of Mr. Thomas Bloom, Ms. Robin Needleman, then the DFAS Vice President, assumed the role of President and appointed Ms. Davis as Vice President. Ms. Needleman resigned effective 5 February and Ms. Davis has accepted her new role. Ms. Davis is a former Washington Chapter President and is very familiar with all aspect of ASMC. She has visited ASMC HQ and been briefed on plans for the remainder of the fiscal year. She will communicate with the membership in the upcoming edition of the Armed Forces Comptroller magazine. The entire ASMC staff extends our welcome and support.

Jennifer Sizemore

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Performance Management Study

For the second year ASMC has Partnered with Grant Thornton LLP to survey the impact of an important and timely topic on the comptroller community.

Performance management will be examined in depth this year and the findings will be the Subject of a session at the PDI and will also result in a written report that will be provided to all PDI participants. In order to gain as much insight as possible we have developed an on line survey instrument that only takes a couple of minutes to complete. Your personal input is important to allow us to accurately reflect the state of implementation that performance management has across the Department of Defense. The survey is anonymous. Just click this link and let us know what you think of performance management and how it is affecting you and your agency or command.
<http://inquisite.gt.com/surveys/7P2PBP>.

PDI 2004 - Updated 9 March

Mark your calendars now for PDI 2004 in Cleveland on June 1-4. Housing reservations may be made online at this time, from the link on the PDI 2004 page. Information about each hotel may also be found under Housing Information. Registration for general attendees is not yet open, but will open the week of March 8. A matrix and descriptions of workshops is available under program information. A condensed brochure will be mailed to all members on March 10. Click article headline for additional information.

National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC)

Dear NHEC Members, Students, Supporters, and Friends,
The National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC) is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications from college students (in a wide variety of disciplines related to the environment, natural resources, agriculture, and energy) interested in receiving a prestigious "Travel Scholarship" to attend our upcoming 9th Annual "National Hispanic Sustainable Energy & Environmental Conference", to be held April 3-6, 2004, in Albuquerque, NM.

The Conference features 30 workshops; a major Career Fair (with on-the-spot hiring taking place); site visits to environmental facilities; and the opportunity to network with hundreds of fellow Hispanic/minority environmental students and professionals from around the country.

To apply for the Travel Scholarship, students must mail the following: a current resume, with GPA; a copy of your college transcripts; and a one page essay that explains your careers goals and how you intend to use what you learn in the future.

Forwarded for information only.

For additional information, please go the web page listed in the announcement.

The scholarship is open to both graduate and undergraduate students in majors related to the environment. This year, NHEC is particularly seeking applications from sophomores and juniors. In addition, teens who have participated in the past in the NHEC "Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute" are also welcome to apply.

The Travel Scholarship will cover nearly all costs for a student, including transportation (typically airfare); 3-4 nights hotel; most meals; conference printed materials; and some incidentals. There is no fee to apply, and only a \$25 registration fee if selected.

If you are interested in applying, go to the NHEC web page at <http://www.nheec.org> for more details. Make sure you read the materials thoroughly, and follow all the instructions -- before applying! This will greatly increase your chance of receiving a scholarship. Students are urged to mail in their applications as soon as possible, as scholarships are going fast.

The Conference will be held at the Marriott Pyramid North Hotel, in Albuquerque, NM. For professionals, the rates are \$97 per night for a single/double room. For reservations, call the Marriott toll free number at 800-262-2043, or the hotel directly at 505-821-3333. Call soon, as rooms at this rate are going fast. For more info, including the "Preliminary Program", go to our web page at <http://www.nheec.org/>

If you are a professor, teacher, or work with students, we ask you to forward this email on to colleagues and/or college students whom you think may be interested in this unique opportunity.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you in Albuquerque!

Roger Rivera
President, NHEC



FORT BELVOIR CREDIT UNION NEWS



News and Promotions:

- **Taking Control of Your Retirement**
 - March 11th
 - Ft. Belvoir Community Club
 - 12 pm to 1 pm
- **Tax News: Jobs & Growth**
 - March 25th
 - Andrew T. McNamara Building (DLA)
 - 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
- **Tax Time Loan Special Feb 1 - April 15**
- **FREE Online Bill Pay!!**
- **eStatements**
- **FREE Checking with Direct Deposit!!**
- **Membership Privileges**

* Free Financial Seminars

Fort Belvoir sponsors free financial seminar's every second Thursday of the month (unless otherwise noted) at the Fort Belvoir Community Club from noon to 1 pm and monthly at the Andrew T. McNamara Building (aka: DLA). Please visit our website for dates and information and/or to register today!

* Tax Time Loan Special

Whether you need some extra money for Uncle Sam or to start that springtime project, take advantage of our Tax Time Loan Special today! Qualified Members can get \$5,000 or more (max \$25,000) at **6.90% APR for up to 60 months.** *

- Apply online at www.ftbfcu.org
- Call us 24/7 at 877-827-3678 or fax an application to 703-730-1410
- Stop by one of our four branch locations
- Special ends April 15, 2004

*Annual Percentage Rate. Certain restrictions apply. Contact a Member Service Specialist for details.

* Mortgages

Yes! We offer Mortgage Loans in all 50 states. Whether you are buying a home or refinancing your current home, FTBFCU stands ready to assist you with a variety of competitively priced products. Contact FTBFCU's Mortgage Specialist today at (703) 730-1800 ext 5147.

* FREE Online Bill Pay for all!

Take a vacation from writing checks and using stamps. All members can now enjoy worry-free online bill paying for **FREE!** Relax and be

assured that your bills are paid on time-when you decide. You're in complete control of your finances with Fort Belvoir Online Bill Pay (BOB). Log onto www.ftbfcu.org to experience Online Bill Pay for **FREE!**

* Sign Up Today For eStatements

Stop the paper! Your kitchen table is not a file cabinet. Save yourself time and clutter, enroll in eStatements! You can receive your credit union statements electronically - **FREE!** Your kitchen table will thank you! Estatements are a sure way to stay on top of all of your banking transactions.

* Membership Privileges

As a member of a credit union, you become a part owner of an institution that is unique in the financial world. Credit unions exist solely for the purpose of meeting the financial needs of their members. To that end, credit unions not only provide outstanding personal service, but members often earn higher returns on their savings while paying lower rates for loans.

* FREE Checking with Direct Deposit

Are you looking for more options when it comes to your checking account? We've created a

For additional information, please contact:
Allyson Teevan, Marketing Communications Specialist

Fort Belvoir Federal Credit Union

Phone: 703-730-1800 ext: 5151

Fax: 703-730-1410

Email: ateevan@ftbfcu.org



CERTIFIED DEFENSE FINANCIAL MANAGER (CDFM) PAGE

Program Enrollment

First, please review your eligibility. The Certified Defense Financial Manager is open to all candidates who have the qualifications shown below. ASMC anticipates that most candidates will be civilian or military members of the Department of Defense, US Coast Guard, or employees of Defense contractors or suppliers.

To apply and sit or the examination a candidate must:

- Promise to adhere to the ASMC Pledge of Professionalism and
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent

If you meet these requirements, please complete the [Online Application](#) and mail it, with the enrollment fee, to the address shown on the application.

Once all three of the module examinations have been successfully completed, the candidate must satisfy the following financial management experience requirements before being issued his or her CDFM certificate.

- Complete three years of Defense related financial management experience
- Complete two years of Defense related financial management experience if the candidate holds an Associate, Baccalaureate, or higher degree.

The enrollment fee opens a certification account with ASMC, which is good for two years. As long as you complete all three modules within the two-year period, this enrollment fee will not be charged again. In the rare event a candidate takes longer than two years to successfully complete the three examination modules, a new enrollment fee must be paid to ASMC. However, all successfully completed test modules still remain valid toward the certification.

Upon acceptance of your application, you will receive a letter from the ASMC containing your nine-digit candidate ID number and the procedures to follow in registering for the modules examinations. Remember, you can take module examinations one at a time, or in any combination, or in any order.

Examinations cost \$95 per module, paid in advance. So, when scheduling your appointment, please be prepared to pay for the examination by the following methods: American Express, Master Card, Discover, and Visa. **Please note, that if for some reason you cannot keep your appointment and must cancel, you must follow the directions provided in your Authorization Letter.**

CERTIFIED DEFENSE FINANCIAL MANAGER (CDFM) PAGE CONT

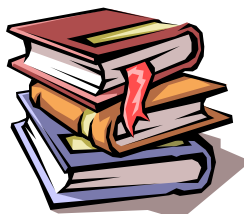
Congratulation to Connie Harding for winning the CDFM Luncheon Trivia at the March luncheon, Connie won a \$20 gift certificate to Springfield Mall.

The questions and answers to the February Newsletter CDFM Luncheon Trivia are listed below.

1. Federal appropriations law can be categorized into which three topical areas? **Purpose, Time & Amount**
2. How many branches of government did the constitution establish? **3**
3. What financial control document is issued by the Treasury Department following signature of the Appropriations Act? **Treasury Warrant**
4. What are the three major functions in DOD Finance? **Certification & Disbursement, Collection and Control.**
5. What DOD accounting entity maintains a central general ledger? **DFAS**

To win you must have a copy of the Newsletter with the correct answers to all five questions written down on it. Ties will be broken by drawing numbers, the person with the number closest to one wins. A prize will be given to the winner. Good luck!

CDFM LUNCHEON TRIVIA



Since the April luncheon is Professional Development Day (PDD) there will be no luncheon trivia for the April luncheon. The luncheon trivia will resume for the May luncheon.

Social & Community Service

Welcome to Jim Davis (USAAA) for graciously filling the vacant Social and Community Service position.

There are several community service projects Jim has planned for us.

March

Collect telephone cards, note cards, stamps, disposable cameras, and electric razors for the soldiers at area Military Hospitals.

April

MS Walk - 17 & 18 April

17 April - Manassas, Washington, DC, Oxon Hill and Potomac MD

18 April - Reston, VA

For more information please visit <http://www.msandyou.org/>

May

Start saving pop tabs from all those sodas you drink because in May ASMC, Mount Vernon Chapter will be collecting them for Ronald McDonald House.



DIPLOMA MILLS

The Internet has helped to proliferate the number of diploma mills that are operating. In some cases, they offer classes and courses of study that have no legitimate accreditation, but look like normal college classes.

Often individuals have no idea that they are enrolled in a course of study that will not be recognized by other academic institutions or employers. We see one or two soldiers a month that come in to try to get courses from diploma mills transferred to another institution or who are making application for a successive degree--to discover that their money and time have been spent in a worthless effort and what they thought they had academically accomplished, they had not!

RECOMMENDATION: Seek counseling at the Education Center before you enroll with a school.

TEN SIGNS YOU'RE DEALING WITH A DIPLOMA MILL

1. The university claims it is a "prestigious unaccredited university." There is no such thing. Accreditation is the highest mark of educational quality. Diploma mills are bogus universities that sell college diplomas - a piece of paper rather than the educational experience.
2. The school is accredited, but NOT accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U. S. Department of Education. Many online diploma mills claim they're accredited, but their accrediting agencies are bogus agencies with prestigious sounding names. How can you make sure? Go to the following Web site for a list of all accrediting agencies recognized by the Dept of Ed: http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg4.html.
3. Admission criteria consist entirely of having a credit card. Previous academic record, GPA, and test scores are deemed irrelevant. Valid universities admit you via a formal application process that includes official transcripts and a review of your existing academic records.
4. You can get an entire degree based on your career or life experience as it equates to college-level learning. No valid university will grant you an entire graduate degree (master's or doctorate) based solely on a review of such experience. Few accredited graduate programs allow ANY credits to be earned this way. Undergraduate programs are more flexible, but they normally LIMIT the amount of credit you can earn from a "portfolio assessment" of your past career/life experience. (Two exceptions to the rule: One is Thomas Edison State College (TESC). A person can earn an entire Associate and Bachelor's Degree by having TESC perform portfolio assessments and accept successfully completed college-credit-examinations. Excelsior College is similar to TESC, but Excelsior does not actually perform its OWN portfolio assessments; it allows another college to assess career experience and translate that experience into credit. The student then transfers that credit into Excelsior. Both TESC and Excelsior are regionally accredited.)
5. The university promises you a degree within 30 days of paying a certain amount of money. Diploma mills are in the business of selling you that piece of paper. Valid universities, on the other hand, are in the business of providing an education, which takes more than 30 days.
6. You can get a diploma for a lump sum of usually \$2000-\$2500 for a undergraduate degree and \$3000-\$5000 for a graduate degree. This is a sure sign you're dealing with a diploma mill. Valid universities charge per credit or per course tuition or assessment fees.

7. When you call the Better Business Bureau (BBB), there are several consumer complaints about the "school." You can visit the BBB online at <http://www.bbb.org>.

8. The "admission counselor" tells you that online or distance-learning universities can't be accredited by a recognized accrediting body. This is untrue.

9. The school's Web site either lists no faculty or their faculty attended schools accredited by bogus agencies.

10. The distance learning university offers degrees to U. S. citizens but is located in a foreign country, often a tiny island country no one has heard of. The school indicates it does not need recognition by an American accreditor because "King" so-and-so or "President" so-and-so recognizes it. If you get a diploma from this school, it will be useless.

THE BOTTOM LINE: Steer clear of any school, which doesn't have proper accreditation. Be a smart consumer and BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING, investigate your academic choices with the counseling professionals at your local education center.

Other individuals know full well that the credential and the institution they are affiliated with are fakes. They simply hope they will not be caught.

PLEASE NOTE THE BELOW LEGAL CONSEQUENCES: STATES TRY TO CRACK DOWN ON DIPLOMA MILLS

Emphasis shifts to prosecuting people who buy degrees.

The diploma mill business is proliferating, mainly due to the Internet. Many people realize that having some sort of credential in today's economy is desirable. States have been paying more attention to diploma mills. Because states have been unable to "snuff" out these diploma mill companies, several states have changed their strategy. If you can't catch the perpetrators, go after the consumers. Illinois, Indiana, and New Jersey have recently criminalized the use of fake diplomas, and legislators in a few other states are trying to do the same. For example, a proposal for South Carolina would punish those who use fake degrees with a \$1000 fine and up to one year in prison.

North Dakota passed a law earlier this year that states if you use a fake degree to get a job, promotion or admission to a college, that is considered a misdemeanor, with the punishment being up to a year in prison and a \$1000 fine. This same punishment is already on the books for those people in Oregon who use fake degrees. People who use fake degrees are given one warning to stop using the diplomas, and most comply.

Not everyone agrees that prosecuting people who buy these degrees is the best way to handle the situation. How do you know what role the fake degree had in earning a job? How do you know if that person was trying to deceive an employer? Some of the diploma mills who give credit for "life experience" are so good at what they do, that some people honestly think that they are getting their degree in an acceptable way. Fear of prosecution means little if consumers don't know they are breaking the law.

No legislation has been introduced at the Federal level against diploma mills. But the Education Department has taken note. As has the Federal Trade Commission, which could help the situation if they were to strictly define what is a bachelor's degree and what is a doctorate. Instead of jail time, some higher-education groups and state agencies have created on-line warnings or Web sites to help consumers learn about diploma mills. Despite new laws and public-education campaigns, there are some who are skeptical of how successful a crackdown on fake degrees can be, especially since in certain circles, the key to getting a job or promotion is based on having that credential.

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